Nurse Practitioner Independence Bill Goes to Senate Health & Human Services Committee

After a week of uncertainty, HB 1013, the measure to give nurse practitioners independent practice, has been assigned to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. This is a big step for us in defeating this bill as the committee chair, Sen. Ervin Yen, M.D., has already said he does not plan to hear the bill this year.

However, the battle is not yet over. Remember, in the House, this bill was taken away from the Public Health Committee and moved to the Business, Commerce and Tourism Committee where it could be railroaded through. Likewise, we know that Senate leadership is already receiving heavy pressure from nurse practitioners to move the bill out of Sen. Yen’s committee. So please continue reaching out to your State Senators at (405) 524-0126 and expressing your opposition to HB 1013.

OSMA Sends Future Physicians to Nation’s Capital

Chelsea McKenzie, MSI, OU-Tulsa, and Brady Iba, MSI, OU – OKC, represented our Medical Student Section at the AMA Medical Student and Advocacy Conference in Washington, D.C., last week. They heard tips on effective lobbying techniques with AMA lobbyists as well as the latest on health policy and technology.

They visited Capitol Hill where they met with Sen. Jim Inhofe’s, R-OK, staff and others. “There are many ways to serve patients in addition to treating them,” Iba said. “I love the many ways we can advocate for our (future) patients.”

Trip Highlights

- Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, M.D. in a fireside chat format
- Meeting with legislators to share views on ACA, DACA & the importance of increasing GME funding
- Joining hundreds of medical students to advocate for improved healthcare
SCHEDULE & REGISTRATION
Members are invited to attend all sessions. Participation is free except for CME and Inaugural.
See the event schedule and complete Annual Meeting Registration online, or

Book your hotel room at Tulsa’s Hyatt Regency by April 7, for discounted rates. Call (918) 234-1234. Reserve online or go to https://aws.passkey.com/go/OSMA2017.

RESOLUTION DEADLINE – MARCH 23
Send resolutions via email to Bartlett@okmed.org or fax to OSMA at (405) 601-9575:

- March 23 (Regular): Will be considered by the House of Delegates
- March 24 – April 14 (Late): Requires a simple majority vote of the OSMA Board of Trustees in order to be presented to the House of Delegates for consideration
- April 15 - April 22 (Emergency): Requires a simple majority vote of the House of Delegates to be considered

BE A DELEGATE
OSMA members in good standing may be eligible to serve as delegates. Contact the appropriate staff member to learn more and/or submit your name:

- Oklahoma County - Alison Williams, (405) 702-0500, awilliams@okcountymed.org
- Tulsa County - Mona Whitmire, (918) 743-6184, mona@tcmsok.org
- Rural Physicians – Donna Bartlett, (405) 601-9571, ext. 102, bartlett@okmed.org

ANNUAL MEETING CME – SAVE THE DATE: Friday, April 21, 1:30 – 4:30 p.m.

The Anatomy of a Malpractice Case: My Worst Nightmare!

Mock trial presented by attorneys from Wiggins, Sewell & Ogletree

Scene 1: Pre-op consultation between physician and patient recommending aggressive spine surgery with little no risk
Scene 2: Patient has suffered significant operative complications with disabilities and sees physician for follow-up.
Scene 3: Malpractice trial simulation
Scene 4: Closing arguments with attendees acting as jury & discussions

3 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ from Oklahoma’s highest-rated CME source
$75 OSMA members; $100 non-members

Register or go to: http://www.okmed.org/web/Online/Events/Event_Display.aspx?EventKey=AM_2017
For additional info, call Sandy Deeba, (405) 601-9571, ext. 111.
CMS Extends Deadline for 2016 Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) Electronic Health Record (EHR) Submission

CMS has extended the submission deadline for 2016 Quality Reporting Document Architecture (QRDA) data submission for the EHR reporting mechanism of the Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) program. Individual eligible professionals (EPs), PQRS group practices, qualified clinical data registries (QCDRs) and qualified EHR data submission vendors (DSVs) now have until Friday, March 31, 2017, to submit 2016 EHR data via QRDA. The deadline is extended to March 31, 2017, for EPs to electronically report electronic Clinical Quality Measures (eCQMs) for the Medicare EHR Incentive Program.

Please Note: The deadline for reporting via attestation and Meaningful Use objective and measure submission for providers participating in the Medicare EHR Incentive Program was Monday, March 13, 2017, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time (ET).

March 13, 2017 deadline:
- eCOM reporting for hospitals
- CQM reporting via attestation
- Meaningful Use objectives and measures

March 17, 2017 deadline:
- Web Interface

March 31, 2017 deadlines:
- EHR Direct or Data Submission Vendor (QRDA I or III)
- Qualified Clinical Data Registries (QRDA III)
- Qualified Registries (Registry XML)
- QCDRs (QCDR XML)
- eCQM reporting for EPs

Submission ends at 8 p.m. Eastern Time (ET) on the end date listed for PQRS reporting. An Enterprise Identity Management (EIDM) account with the “Submitter Role” is required for these PQRS data submission methods. Please see the EIDM System Toolkit for additional information.

EPs who do not satisfactorily report 2016 quality measure data to meet the PQRS requirements will be subject to a downward PQRS payment adjustment on all Medicare Part B Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) services rendered in 2018. For questions, please contact the QualityNet Help Desk at 1-866-288-8912 or via email at Qnetsupport@hcqis.org from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Central Time. Complete information about PQRS is available at https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/PQRS/index.html.

AMA Launches Grassroots Campaign to Put Patients Before Politics

Patientsbeforepolitics.org, a new website created by The American Medical Association (AMA), aims to encourage physicians and patients to join the AMA’s fight to increase access to affordable, meaningful coverage for everyone in our nation. It provides physicians and patients with the latest information on healthcare reform legislation moving through Congress, as well as the AMA’s current efforts to help shape the future of U.S. health care.

The site features an easy way for supporters to contact members of Congress—urging them to protect patients currently insured, enable low and moderate income people to secure meaningful coverage and maintain Medicaid and other safety net programs.

STG International (STGi) is currently seeking Primary Care Physicians to provide future full-time services at a Veterans Outpatient Clinic in Idabel, Oklahoma. The clinic operates Monday through Friday during normal business hours. No Weekends. No Call.

The general duty of the Primary Care Physician is to provide covered professional outpatient primary medical services to enrolled patients of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Veteran Affairs Primary Care Program, and to supervise the Community Based Outpatient Clinic’s (CBOC’s) day-to-day delivery of medical care. Please visit www.stginternational.com for more details or (703) 578-6030 or contact them via email at recruiting@stginternational.com.
As you read this, lawmakers are considering legislation to give nurse practitioners independent practice, bureaucrats are discussing how to cut your reimbursement and the Supreme Court is considering a case that would strike down our tort reform efforts and caps on non-economic damages.

If you’re OK with that, then do nothing. But if you’re ready to stand up for your patients and your profession, please make your 2017 OMPAC contribution today!

OMPAC is how we ensure good legislators get elected. It’s how we vet candidates, support incumbents who have supported us and defeat candidates who don’t. OMPAC is your voice in the political process.

The stakes are simply too high for physicians to be on the sideline. Please visit http://www.okmed.org/WEB/Online/Fundraising/OMPAC_Donation.aspx and make your contribution today.